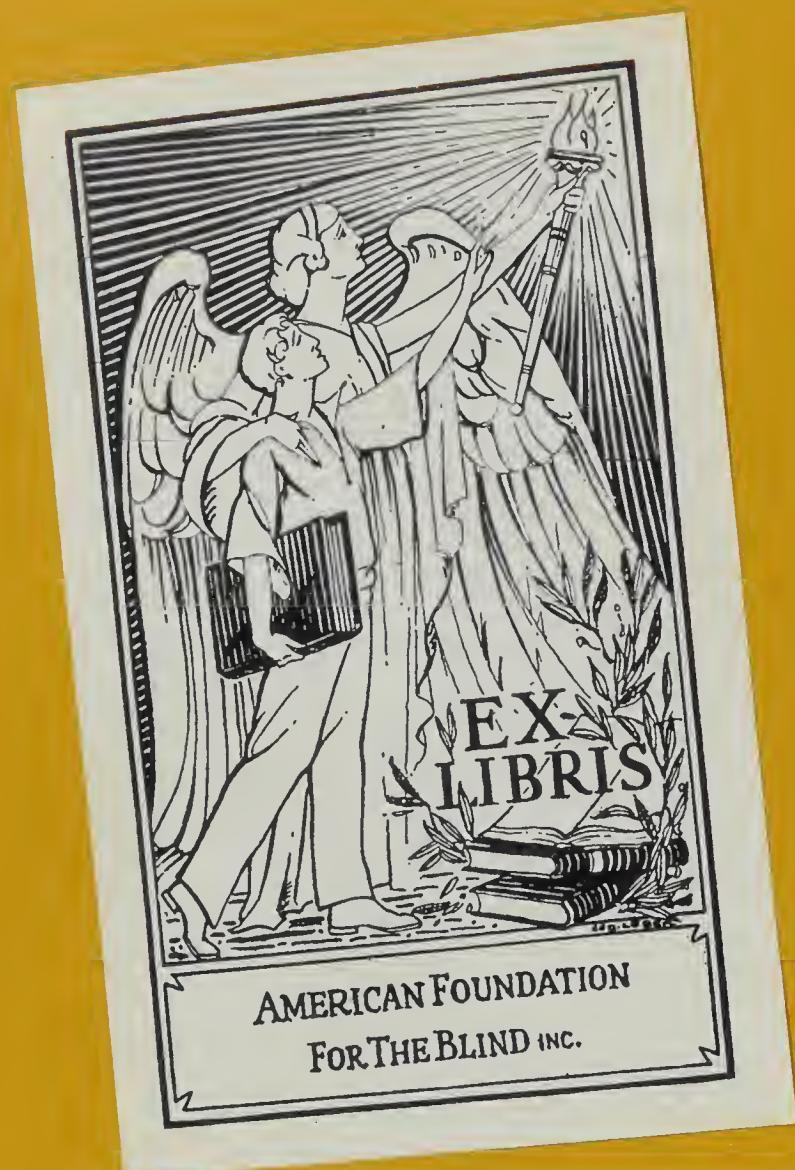


Brownson, George.
VISUALLY-HANDICAPPED PERSONS
PLAY BASEBALL.

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Ladies' high single, Doris Smith, Niagara Falls, 220; ladies' high triple, Margaret Hackbart, Kitchener, 553.

Partially sighted coaches: high single, Glen Smith, Sudbury, 286; high triple, Lloyd Markle, Guelph, 746.

Received too late for the January, 1972 edition of the magazine but highly commendable were the results of the CCB Maritime Division Bowling Tournament held in Charlottetown, P.E.I. on Oct. 18th. Clubs from Halifax, and New Glasgow, N.S., Moncton and Saint John, N.B. were represented by teams. The team trophy was won by the host city, Charlottetown.

The totally blind high single and high triple were both won by George Megeney, of New Glasgow and the high average for the partially sighted was taken by Ernie Gaudet of Charlottetown and the high single by Greg Collrin of Saint John.

Curling

George Brownson sends us news from

Vancouver that the standings so far this past competitive season is: North Stars, 17; Ice Cubes, 11; Frostbites, 10; Huskies, 8; Snowflakes, 4 and Glaciers, 4. The Snowflakes and Glaciers split ends equally, but the Glaciers managed to score more than one point in one of theirs. Apart from that the game was even and curling better than usual.

The North Stars gave the Frostbites another licking and though the Bites looked like they might come back after taking the 7th, the Stars came through with a pretty tough performance in the 8th to crunch out another win in their unbeaten record. The Ice Cubes ran into the high-flying Huskies who are loudly proclaiming they are not going to be satisfied with anything but victories for the rest of the season. It was Huskies all the way from the starting gun.

Bye for now.

Kay

VISUALLY-HANDICAPPED PERSONS PLAY BASEBALL

by *George Brownson, Vancouver, B.C.

At the mention of visually-handicapped persons playing baseball eyebrows raise and the question is invariably asked, "How can visually-handicapped persons play baseball? Well, they have been playing baseball for several summers at C-Nib Lodge on Bowen Island." The game creates team spirit, good-natured rivalry and a lot of merriment, as was the case when a player remained on third base while the opposing team commenced batting. Some humorous speculation arose

as to which side could have claimed the run had one been scored.

The game is an adaptation of the standard game of baseball to the limitations of those with little or no sight. It is the brainchild of *Joe Lewis, Director of Recreation of the British Columbia-Yukon Division of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Following are the instructions for playing the Lewis Game of Baseball:

Mock Baseball And Scrub

Equipment

Two sets of plastic bats and balls, one large and the other smaller. Four bases. Six markers. A scoreboard.

Volunteers

Five can handle adequately. An umpire who doubles as fielder at the plate. Three outfielders. One scorekeeper.

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Basis of Play

Either team play with equal number of players on each team. Up to a maximum of nine on each team for baseball; or, individual play in the game of scrub.

Arrangement of Equipment

Bases are set out as follows: Distance from homeplate to second base is 75 feet. Distance between 1st and 3rd bases is 45 feet and these two bases are lined up 50 feet away from homeplate. This places 1st and 3rd bases closer to second base than to homeplate. Four markers are arranged in a row, 15 feet apart and running from 1st to 3rd bases. This creates three openings, 15 feet wide each. Another marker is placed just behind 2nd base and the last, 25 feet farther back.

Deployment of Volunteers

The umpire is near homeplate. His function is to determine the call. He also receives the ball from the outfielders and acts as an infield volunteer. He is eligible to catch pop flies. Two other volunteers take up their position in front of the row of four markers. Their task is to prevent the ball from getting beyond the row of front markers. The fourth volunteer positions himself somewhere behind second base where he can best field any well hit ball and try to prevent a triple base hit or homer. Any fielder may stop the ball either on the ground or in flight. The fifth volunteer operates as scorekeeper and batting order.

Method of Play

Batter steps up to homeplate. Has choice of large or smaller bat. Holds ball in one hand and with bat in the other, attempts to hit the ball in one-handed style. Ball may be tossed up to hit but it is more advisable for batter to hit ball out of hand. If the ball goes outside either baseline, it is a "foul ball". If it is hit in the infield and does not reach the front row

of markers, it is a "strike". If the ball is a "fly ball", and is caught by the fielder, it is an "out". If the ball is grounded through the centre opening of the front row of markers, it is a two-base hit. If it goes through the 1st or 3rd base openings, it is a single base hit. If the ball goes beyond the 2nd base marker, it is a triple. If it goes beyond the last marker, it is a home run. If a fielder attempting to catch a fly ball drops it, the call is determined by the spot where it rests and this is indicated by the markers. If it happens beyond the last marker, it is a home run. Behind the 2nd base marker, it is a triple. Behind the front openings, it depends which opening as to whether it is a single or two-base hit.

The umpire calls the play and is the final authority in any dispute.

In the case of base hits, the batter is guided to the base and moves from base to base as the game progresses. There is no running and the batter may request to be guided to bases as the course of the game requires.

Further Remarks

The volunteers can make the game attractive and pleasureful to the contestants if they understand their duties clearly, and especially the scorekeeper, who should keep the batters moving to homeplate without undue delay. A person with a loudhailer or small P.A. system can enhance the game by acting as a radio sports announcer covering the play and giving a running commentary.

In our final experiment we even included the sale, at a very nominal price, of popcorn and peanuts.

The foregoing may appear to be an involved and complicated effort to set up the game and get it into motion, but in actual fact once the volunteers are secured and briefed, the game moves into high gear very quickly.

It does not require too much of a clearing. The equipment is very inexpensive. A few volunteers can handle the entire event and a score of blind participants will enjoy a session of non-strenuous, stimulating

activity plus considerable amusement and excitement.

We urge every club and organization planning outdoor group activities to give this game a try.

A LOVE STORY

by *Hazel Moran, Vancouver, B.C.

Mitzi, small, coal-black, and short-tailed, was four months old when she came to us. And although she, and our 75-pound golden retriever became instant friends, the little kitten teased her unmercifully! She would hang, head down, over Loti's face, grasp her around the muzzle with her front paws and then kick Loti's neck with her hind legs. Loti never complained.

But soon Mitzi tired of this prank, and having discovered that Loti had 'ticklish' front paws, decided it would be fun to tickle them, just when the poor dog tried to sleep.

Still uncomplaining, Loti learned to tuck her front paws beneath her body, out of reach of the naughty little kitten. But Mitzi, besides being mischievous, was determined. There was always Loti's tail! She simply went around to the back of her and chewed and scratched the dog's tail!

While still very young, Mitzi presented us with a litter—four males and one extra large female, who had a very loud voice and a hairpin bend in her tail. We had wanted to keep this kitten for ourselves, but, sadly, she did not live. I was heart broken and cried my head off!

Because she was so small and young, Loti and I helped Mitzi to look after the rest of her family. But, in spite of our help and extra nourishing food, she grew so thin I had to send her to the vet. He gave her an injection (probably vitamins) and this really seemed to help her.

When any of Mitzi's kittens got lost, Loti had her own way of finding them.

She would point her nose to where they were, till I found them.

One day she pointed her nose to the cupboard door under my sink, where there is a gap of about a couple of inches for toe room. I opened this door and felt around. "No kitten there!" I told Loti. But she insisted there was, and started to push my hand very slowly upwards with her nose until my fingers landed on soft fur. And there he was, a little kitten perched on top of an Old Dutch plastic container, his sharp little claws clasped tightly around it. Had it been empty he would have toppled to the floor when I opened the cupboard door. I had to fight with this small kitten to make him let go of the container!

Another day—with Loti's help—I found a kitten on top of my vacuum cleaner! They were always turning up in odd places and getting temporarily lost. But they were great fun!

Now that her family is reared, Mitzi spends a lot of time outdoors and sometimes—although I don't like this much—Mitzi comes for a walk with Loti and me. But I am always afraid she may lead Loti chasing across the road in the path of an oncoming car and this is just too dangerous. But when Mitzi does join us, I have to listen very attentively for Loti's chain rattling and we keep as far away from busy streets as possible.

For all the teasing, the anxious moments and the responsibility of being a guide dog, they are inseparable, these two—Loti and Mitzi, my wonderful animals!

